GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3030
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
BETTER PRICE FOR ONION
BHAVNA DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA;BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide better price for onion to the farmers on the basis of cost of production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have included onion in the list of essential commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the percentage of production of onion and the area of land under cultivation in the country;

(f) the surplus onion production during the last three years;

(g) the names of the schemes being implemented by the Government for providing remunerative prices for surplus production of onion;

(h) the measures being taken by the Government to promote export of additional production of onion;

(i) the quantum of onion proposed to be exported during the current financial year;

(j) the quantity of onion exported during the last three years; and

(k) the total expenditure incurred thereon and revenue earned therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The prices of onion are determined by the market forces of demand and supply. However, to protect the interest of farmers under conditions of glut, the Government implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under which a fixed quantity is purchased at a price which takes into account prevailing market prices and cost of production.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The Government has included onion as an essential commodity vide order No.15-3/99-ECAR&E dated 29.6.1999 issued by Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs.

(e): The production of onion has been estimated at 47.21 lakh tonnes from an area of 4.49 lakh hectares in 2000-01. This represents a decline of 3.5% production over the previous year.

(f): While no estimates on surplus production is maintained, the Government has exported onion without affecting domestic supplies.

(g): To ensure remunerative prices to onion growers, the Government has implemented MIS underwhich on specific requests from State Government, and its willingness to share 50% losses, if any, the commodity can be covered under the scheme.

(h) &
(i): An Inter-Ministerial Review Committee (IMRC) on seasonal availability of onion set upin the Department of Commerce reviews the availability of onion for export regularly in order to ensure remunerative prices to the growers and also to protect the interest of domestic consumers. For the year 2002-2003 the export quota of onion has been fixed at 9.00 lakh tonnes through designated agencies.

(j) & (k): The quantum of export of onion during the last three years along with values thereof are indicated below:

Quantity: in lakh tonnes
Value: Rs. in lakh

YEAR	QUANTITY EXPORTED	VALUE
1999-2000	3.18	26704
2000-2001	3.30	32362